

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11 JUSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3060

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 2066

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR MY

SUBJ: CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU DIRECTOR RETIRES

1. THE GOM HAS ANNOUNCED THE RETIREMENT OF HAJI ABU BAKAR FATHIL AS DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU (CNB) EFFECTIVE ABOUT APRIL 10. ABU BAKAR, APPOINTED THE FIRST DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU IN OCTOBER 1972, IS A CAREER POLICE OFFICER OF UNQUESTIONED INTEGRITY BUT OF LIMITED ABILITY AND INITIATIVE. HIS LACK OF DYNAMISM WAS ONE REASON THAT DURING HIS TENURE THE CNB HAS REMAINED A SKELETON FORCE OF NO MORE THAN 20 ILL-EQUIPPED AND ILL-TRAINED MEN. UP TO NOW, THE CNB UNDER ABU BAKAR HAS BEEN VERY INEFFECTIVE, OPERATING WITH OBJECTIVES MORE APPROPRIATE TO A SMALL LOCAL POLICE AGENCY THAN TO A NATIONAL NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT ORGANIZATION; THE BURDEN OF THE RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL GOM EFFORT AGAINST NARCOTICS HAS BEEN CARRIED BY THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION OF THE ROYAL MALAYSIA POLICE AND BY THE ROYAL MALAYSIAN CUSTOMS.

2. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN, DETAILS OF WHICH WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER THIS

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YEAR, CONTAINS PROVISIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND

EXPANSION OF THE CNB. NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS
HERE, INCLUDING EMBASSY DEA AGENTS, FEEL THAT ABU
BAKAR'S REPLACEMENT BY A NEW DIRECTOR IS A NECESSARY
STOP FOR AN ENHANCED ROLE FOR CNB. IT IS ENCOURAGING THAT LAW
MINISTER TAN SRI ABDUL KADIR BIN YUSOF TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT
THE NEW CNB DIRECTOR WOULD BE "ONE OF THE BEST ROYAL
MALAYSIAN POLICE OFFICERS" NOW STATIONED IN A STATE
IN THE NORTH.
UNDERHILL

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